

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND  
GOVERNMENT REFORM

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

**Washington, DC 20515**

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President Barack Obama  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Recent reports indicate that the United States has known, since 2008, of a major nuclear arms control treaty violation by the Russian Federation—a material breach of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF). However, it appears that your Administration has failed to address the issue or inform our North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies of these violations in a timely manner.

As you are aware, your Administration called upon NATO to undertake the 2012 Deterrence and Defense Posture Review (DDPR) in an effort to analyze the current threat environment and ensure that the alliance's nuclear posture is designed to meet those threats. It is now clear that after mandating the DDPR, the United States chose to withhold information from NATO about Russian arms control violations that directly affect NATO's security. Had NATO been made aware of these violations, the Alliance could have made judgments about its nuclear posture with a more thorough and complete understanding of all relevant events and circumstances. Your Administration's failure to disclose this critical information to NATO during the review process both compromises the DDPR and weakens the trust our allies place in us.

Furthermore, knowledge of these INF treaty violations should have made your Administration more attentive to its commitments to address the current state of our nuclear force. Instead, your administration has continued to delay or ignore these critical programs. The status of your modernization commitments include:

- *OHIO*-Class Replacement ballistic missile submarine – delayed two years with no margin left for further delay.
- Long-range stand-off missile – a replacement for the nuclear air-launched cruise missile first deployed in 1980 has been delayed two years with indications the forthcoming budget request will delay it further.
- The Administration has no plan to replace the Minuteman III missile while Russia and China both develop and test new systems.
- The Life Extension Program (LEP) for the B61 nuclear bomb was delayed by two years in the FY13 request and now is likely to be delayed another 6-12 months;

- Development of the W78/W88 interoperable warhead, which has already slipped three years, now appears in jeopardy.
- The Administration essentially cancelled the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement Nuclear Facility (CMRR-NF), leaving the United States with no useful plutonium capacity;
- Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) recommended a 2021 initial operating capability for the Uranium Processing Facility (UPF) in Oak Ridge TN – this project has been delayed by at least 4 years and your Administration's mismanagement of the project may result in it being canceled altogether due to massive cost increases.

Mr. President, I am greatly concerned that your Administration is ignoring serious nuclear modernization and nonproliferation issues, particularly with respect to Russia, China, Pakistan, North Korea, and Iran. I am concerned that you are ignoring these issues so as not to discredit your policies of "disarmament by example." I strongly urge you to immediately begin to work with Congress to protect and modernize the United States nuclear deterrent.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress